



Michigan Fire Inspectors Society

P.O. Box 193, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004-0193

PA235 – Talking points for the Senate Regulatory Reform Committee

PURPOSE & INTENT

- Fire protection systems detailed in Chapter 9 of the Michigan Building Code include:
 - Automatic Sprinkler Systems
 - Alternative Fire Extinguishing Systems
 - Standpipe Systems
 - Portable Fire Extinguishers
 - Fire Alarm and Detection Systems
 - Emergency Alarm Systems
 - Smoke Control Systems
 - Smoke and Heat Vents
 - Fire Command Centers
 - Fire Department Connections
 - Fire Pumps
- These fire protection systems require specialized training to possess the requisite knowledge in order to review and inspect them in accordance with their respective referenced standards.
- The design and installation of fire protection systems are specified by NFPA standards that are referenced by the ICC and Michigan Building Code.
- Code enforcement professionals who obtain the necessary certifications through the National Fire Protection Association or the International Code Council possess this knowledge.
- However, this experience, knowledge, and certification level is not recognized by the Building Officials and Inspectors Registration Act (PA54).
- Those code enforcement professionals who are qualified, certified, and trained specifically in fire protection systems cannot be registered for the review and inspection of these systems under the current Act.

International Fire Marshals Association

Chapter 1



QUALIFICATIONS of the FIRE INSPECTOR

- NFPA 1031 is the Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner. This standard outlines the requirements for a Certified Fire Inspector Level I and Level II in addition to the requirements for a Plan Examiner.
- The qualifications in NFPA 1031 are based on Job Performance Requirements (JPRs).
- Several of the JPRs in NFPA 1031 are related directly to the review, installation, and approval of fire protection systems that are detailed in Chapter 9 of the Michigan Building Code.
- The NFPA has a Fire Inspector Level I, Level II, and Plan Examiner curriculum that is utilized in Michigan for the training, testing, and certification of our Fire Inspectors and Plan Examiners.
- The International Code Council does not have a training curriculum but does have an examination and certification program that will verify the requisite knowledge of an inspector and plan examiner.
- Each level of the NFPA curriculum (F.I. 1, 2, Plan Review) that is taught in Michigan to our Fire Inspectors dedicates several classroom hours to fire protection systems. In addition, a practicum phase is completed and then a 100 question examination is required to be passed in order to be certified.
- After certification is achieved, every three years, each level of certification is required to be re-certified by the Inspector by achieving a minimum of 60 hours of continuing education. The continuing education credits must be based on the JPRs of NFPA 1031 that was the basis of the original certification.
- Continuing education is achieved through seminars and conferences provided throughout the state by organizations like MFIS and many county and regional Inspector organizations. Each year, there are several classes provided that are specifically for fire protection systems continuing education.

BENEFITS

- This act will allow our Building Officials to utilize qualified and certified fire inspectors that are already located within their communities.
- Will legalize and legitimize what is already happening in many communities.
- Follows many of the recommendations of the Office of Regulatory Reinvention regarding inspections and permitting.

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'Smoke Alarms Save Lives, Check Yours Today'



Coldwater Fire Department

57 Division Street

Coldwater, Michigan 49036

(517) 278-4177 www.coldwater.org

03/13/13

Michigan State Senate

Senate Committee on Regulatory Affairs

The Honorable Tory Rocca, Chairman

PO Box 30036

Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

Dear Senator Rocca,

I would like to express my support for Senate Bill 235 to amend 1986 PA 54, "Building Officials and Inspectors Registration Act".

It makes perfect sense to have trained and qualified fire inspectors registered as code officials in order to evaluate and inspect specialized fire protection and detection systems. Fire officials have a vested interest in fire and life safety protection systems and often hold superior learning credentials, experience and knowledge in relation to these systems.

The City of Coldwater, not unlike many other communities, utilizes a collaborative effort among building and fire officials when it comes to building code and fire protection issues. What we lack from a fire service perspective is the ability to legally move ahead with fire protection system evaluations, inspections and system approval in the absence of a "registered code official". This absence represents a delay to the customer which often translates to time and dollars lost neither of which represents good customer service. A qualified fire official with "registered code official" status could eliminate this delay and significantly improve customer service.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Respectfully,

Richard Sherman

Fire Chief



FIRE SAFETY



SECURITY



FIRST AID

Approved Protection Systems

Since 1929

2513 N. Burdick Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 342-2748

March 12, 2013

Michigan State Senate
Senate Committee on Regulatory Reform
The Honorable Tory Rocca, Chairman
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Senator Rocca,

The management and employees of Approved Protection Systems, a Michigan company established in 1929, would like to express our support for Senate Bill 235 to amend 1986 PA 54, "Building Officials and Inspectors Registration Act".

As a fire protection contractor, we feel that passage of this bill will ensure a higher level of available expertise in the evaluation and inspection of specialized fire protection and detection systems. The qualifications outlined in the bill will enable local, certified, knowledgeable personnel to perform these functions saving the building owner both time and expense.

The benefits of this bill are numerous. One immediate benefit that would be experienced would be to eliminate a common practice among cash-strapped municipalities, which is to utilize outside contractors to perform plan reviews of fire protection and detection systems due to both budget cut-backs and the lack of specialized expertise within the municipality. This practice ignores the fact that there are certified personnel available within these same municipalities that are not being utilized due to their inability to be registered as a code official. This bill would allow these personnel to perform the reviews and inspections, saving time, while also allowing the fees resulting from these reviews and inspections to remain in the community.

In conclusion, we feel that the benefits provided by this bill will result in savings in both costs and time for the building owner, while providing a substantially increased level of safety to the people and property protected by these systems. We thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

John A. Lewandowski

John A. Lewandowski
President

William C. Anderson

William C. Anderson, CET
Vice President

Date 3-12-13

Jepson Electric, Inc

209 W. Garfield Ave, Coldwater MI 49036
(517) 279-9022

To: The Committee of Regulatory Reform
Subject: State Senate Bill 235
From: Joe Jepson / President, Jepson Electric, Inc.

Dear Sirs,

I run an electrical contracting in business in Branch County Michigan. The majority of our contracts are with industrial and commercial customers, most of which have fire alarm and fire protection systems.

Many times, our projects are delayed due to scheduling conflicts, lack of available inspectors and unwillingness of customers to do multiple tests, of the same systems for different inspectors. These problems, in the end, result in delayed occupancy, delay of payment to my company, upset customers and sometimes lack of production and income for our customers.

Allowing trained, certified and qualified fire code officials for the inspection, acceptance testing and plan review of fire protection, detection and alarm systems, would help to ratify many of the issues we are currently having with the installation, modification and approval of these systems.

I strongly suggest the approval of Senate Bill 235 to simplify the system approval process and help eliminate wasted time and money.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Joe Jepson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Joe Jepson / Jepson Electric, Inc.

VFP FIRE SYSTEMS

3552 Roger B. Chaffee SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49548

March 11, 2013

Senate Committee on Regulatory Reform
Attn: Senator, Tory Rocca Chairman

Re: Senate Bill 235 to amend 1986 PA 54, "Building Officials and Inspectors
Registration Act"

This letter is to provide our support for the proposed legislation to allow the registration under PA 54 of 1986; Building Officials and Inspectors Registration Act of trained, certified and qualified fire code officials for the inspection, acceptance testing, and plan review of fire protection, detection and alarm systems as defined by the Michigan Building Code.

This act is needed to allow our community and our businesses to move forward effectively.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boyd Timm", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Boyd Timm – Vice President - VFP Fire Systems



March 12, 2013

Fire Marshal Paul Dove

RE: Proposed Legislative Bills to Amend Public Act 54 Building Officials and Inspectors Registration Act

In response to Senate Bill 235 & House Bill 4373, as a licensed fire alarm contractor in the State of Michigan, we would support to intent of these bills to allow the registration under PA 54 of 1986 for trained, certified and qualified fire code officials for the inspection, acceptance testing and plan review of fire protection detection and alarm systems as defined by the Michigan Building Code.

It has been our experience that both the State of Michigan and local fire marshals provide a comprehensive and thorough knowledge of code requirements and a commitment to servicing our mutual customers.

We believe that this legislation would provide a significant benefit to the communities that we service.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Valentine
All-Tronics.



TOTAL FIRE PROTECTION, INC.

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FAX: (616) 735-2330
WWW.TOTALFIRE.BIZ

5062 KENDRICK COURT SE • GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49512

March 12, 2013

This letter is to show Total Fire Protection's support of the Senate Bill 235 & House Bill 4373 allowing qualified Fire Code Officials to inspect and review Fire Protection Plans.

We have found that the Fire Officials that have the training and knowledge, do a better job of plan review and the follow up inspections because that have firsthand knowledge of the site specifics details and the local municipalities capabilities.

Sincerely,

Matt Hanes
Chief Designer Total Fire Protection



QUALITY. SERVICE. VALUE.

Senate Committee on Regulatory Reform

Attn: Senator, Tory Rocca Chairman

Re: SENATE BILL 235 & HOUSE BILL 4373 "Building Officials and Inspectors Registration Act"

Dear Senator Tory Rocca,

Jackson Automatic Sprinkler supports this bill to amend the "Building Officials and Inspectors Registration Act". Our Industry needs to have well trained inspectors. We strive to install a quality sprinkler system but a lot of times we are competing against contractors that like to cut corners and not follow the codes. Sprinkler systems have to work every time. If the inspectors are not qualified then less than perfect sprinkler systems are installed.

We also need plan reviews to be completed in a timely manner. Today's construction projects move very fast. If there is a lengthy plan review it will delay the project and cost everyone involved.

Thanks for allowing me to input.

Bruce M. Ulrich

President Jackson Automatic Sprinkler Ltd.
Cell 517-202-2085